

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Office Reissue application of :
Kinam Park et al. :
:
U.S. Serial No: 10/807,227 : Art Unit: 1711
:
Filed: March 22, 2004 : Examiner: John M. Cooney
:
For: HYDROGEL COMPOSITES AND :
SUPERPOROUS HYDROGEL COMPOSITES :
HAVING FAST SWELLING, HIGH : Confirmation No: 1689
MECHANICAL STRENGTH, AND :
SUPERABSORBENT PROPERTIES :

SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.114(C)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in reply to the Official Action mailed February 23, 2007, which represented a final rejection. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee for a one-month extension of time were filed on June 25, 2007, and were accompanied by a submission (Declaration of James H. Meadows under 37 CFR 1.131).

The foregoing RCE has been deemed "improper" by a Notice mailed July 6, 2007, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. A telephone call to TC 1700 revealed that the RCE was deemed improper because it did not include a proper submission under 37 CFR 1.114, i.e., a "Reply" to the final rejection. Applicant

respectfully submits that, by the clear language of the rule, such a Reply is required only when a Reply to the Office Action is "outstanding" under 35 USC 132. But a Reply is not ordinarily deemed "outstanding" following a final rejection. Instead, the previous submission should have been regarded as new evidence in support of patentability, not necessitating a "Reply".

Nevertheless, to be fully responsive to the Notice, the following Remarks are submitted herewith:

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.